A REPORT ON TRUCK CROP CONDITIONS

Broadcast by Phil Perdue, Agricultural Marketing Service, Friday, October 10, 1941, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour over stations associated with the Blue Network of the National Broadcasting Company.

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KADDERLY:

Here we are in the Nation's capitol, where a welcome rain has been falling this morning - and I do mean welcome. This drought-breaker should bring smiles to the faces of a lot of truck crop farmers in this area. And speaking of truck crops, we have with us today Phil Perdue of the Agricultural Marketing Service, who has the Department's latest report on truck crop conditions and prospects. Phil, what is the situation?

PERDUE:

Well, Wallace, reports up until October 1 indicate that the production of truck crops for 1941 will be about 4 percent under the 1940 production. But 10 percent larger than average.

KADDERLY:

The weather of course has had a hand in that.

PERDUE:

Plenty. Weather in the truck crop areas of the Eastern Seaboard States-from New England to the Carolinas was hot and dry during September. Maturity of the late crops was delayed and the yield prospects have been reduced throughout the area. The fall planted crops have been slow to germinate and growth has been retarded. This hot, dry weather was topped off with a killing frost September 29 in New England and New York.

KADDERLY:

What was the situation in other parts of the country?

PERDUE:

Just the opposite kind of weather in the Pacific Northwest. Out there they had excessive rains during the first three weeks of September. These rains severely checked the growth of vegetables. Then in the last week of the month clear sunny weather returned and harvest operations were resumed.

KADDERLY:

Let's go south into California. What happened there?

PERDUE:

In California, cool weather continued during the last half of September, doing both harm and good. Cool weather favored the seeding or setting of winter vegetables. But that same cool weather delayed the maturing of other vegetables that were about ready to harvest.

KADDERLY:

I understand the Middle West has had some rains . . . that should have helped the truck crops.

PERDUE:

It did, Wallace. Late-maturing vegetables in the Middle West were benefitted. The new truck crop season in Texas has had better moisture conditions than usual during this time of the year. Rainfall has been lacking in some areas of the Middle West, but sub-soil moisture was adequate in all sections. In the South acreages of vegetables planted for fall and winter harvest show an increase of 14 percent over last fall's harvested acreage, and 25 percent over average.

KADDERLY:

Phil, I believe the Marketing Service has made recent reports on sweetclover seed and redtop seed. Briefly, what is the picture for those crops.

PERDUE:

Movement of the 1941 sweetclover seed from farms got off to a fast start. Thirty percent of the crop was sold by mid-September, but movement slowed down after that. Prices to growers in surplus producing districts advanced 20 cents per 100 pounds between September 15 and 23rd, reaching about $3.85 for clean seed.

KADDERLY:

Okay, and now what about redtop seed?

PERDUE:

Prices received by growers for redtop seed advanced somewhat during the last half of September. Growers in Illinois and Missouri were receiving from 7 and three-tenths to 7 and a half cents a pound for clean seed. In Illinois, 95 percent of the 1941 redtop crop had been sold by September 30. And in Missouri 90 percent had been sold by that date.

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